

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JENNA SOENDKER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jenna Soendker, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1815, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a Scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: (1) Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; (2) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; (3) earning the senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; (4) designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and (5) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Jenna created a family reading night to promote reading.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jenna Soendker for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

BETTER SCRUTINY OF NATIONAL  
SPACE PROGRAM

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, everyone in the nation was deeply touched by the terrible tragedy involving the recent loss of seven astronauts aboard the *Columbia* Space Shuttle. As in the case of the *Challenger* Shuttle explosion 17 years ago, Congress must become deeply involved in reviewing the causes of this accident. That review, as our former colleague and highly respected expert on the space program, Tim Roemer reminds us, must be an independent study. Far too much—in money, in effort and in lives—is invested in the manned space program for us to fail to undertake a thorough

and fully credible review, including whether or not congressional funding decisions might have affected the adequacy of the resources devoted to shuttle safety.

Congressman Roemer offered sound advice to the Gehman Commission that is charged with investigating the *Columbia* tragedy in a recent column published in Roll Call, which I am submitting to the RECORD.

The article follows:

NASA PANEL NEEDS TO FIND REAL  
SOLUTIONS

(By Tim Roemer)

After the Challenger space shuttle exploded on takeoff in 1986, the prominent physicist Richard Feynman dramatically conducted an experiment visually linking the cause and effect for all to understand. He carefully dipped the rubber O-rings into a glass of ice water to replicate what had happened when they hardened, cracked and, consequently, malfunctioned. An independent panel, known as the Rogers Commission, generally concluded that NASA officials and contractors were largely at fault. The report went on to list poor communications with management, sacrificing standards to remain within the budget, and not paying enough attention to hazards and warnings.

Now, 17 years later, the *Columbia* has disintegrated upon re-entry. We cannot merely round up the usual cast of suspects, appoint the same names to an investigation board and point the finger at the predictable target. It is too important to understand how this happened, with decisions led us there and how to fix it.

Whatever the final conclusion, the newly appointed Gehman Commission tasked with discovering the cause should be loaded with independent and aggressive individuals willing to challenge Congressional budgeting decisions and oversight performance. Everything should be on the table.

The commission should have begun its investigation 10 years before last month's takeoff of *Columbia*. On June 23, 1993, Congress voted 216-215 to authorize \$13 billion for space station costs over the next decade. While Members of Congress, the administration and especially NASA recognize that the space station was experiencing significant design glitches, cost overruns and scheduling delays, they also knew that more money would eventually be needed in the overall NASA budget. But the overall NASA budget level would decline in real dollars over the next 10 years. The space station overruns multiplied.

Something had to give. The overall NASA budget went from \$14.36 billion in 1993 to \$14.9 billion in 2002. However, this declining budget in real dollars included an increase in 2002 for securing the NASA facilities from terrorist threats after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. What happened during this same period to the space shuttle budget? In 1994, the budget for the shuttle was \$3.8 billion. It was cut each year for eight years by more than \$500 million. In 1997, \$200 million was moved from the "shuttle account" to the "space station account" by NASA with Congress' approval. Meanwhile, the space station budget grew to \$2.4 billion and then went down to \$2.1 billion. Due to NASA's many alternations in accounting during this 10-year period, it is extremely difficult to calculate

precise figures for many of these programs. The commission should get a detailed and thorough explanation on how much was spent and where the money went.

By 1996, a single prime contractor took over the shuttle operations. The "USA" on the astronauts' uniforms now stood for "United Space Alliance," a collaboration of private-sector companies. Did Congress object? Approve? Ring the alarm bells? I was a member of one of the responsible committees, and we didn't do enough.

The Gehman Commission should analyze the role of Congress in many of these important decisions. In the end, Congress may or may not be part of the problem. But it can be part of the solution.

The House and Senate space oversight committees have a historic opportunity to conduct 18 months of comprehensive oversight hearings over the remaining 108th Congress. They should produce a comprehensive and long-range report detailing general options for a pared down space station, a plan for robotic space exploration even beyond Mars, a robust replacement shuttle, a bigger and better Hubble telescope, and a vision for human space travel using nuclear propulsion technology. And they must propose an affordable and sustainable budget without sacrificing the viability of one program for the benefit of another.

This would be like the phoenix rising from earth, a testimony and living memorial to the seven *Columbia* astronauts. Together, their spirits and earthly remains would break "the surly bonds of earth."

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CEDAR  
CREEK AND BELLE GROVE NA-  
TIONAL PARK

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2003, America opened its 388th park in the National Park Service: Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. The establishment of this park represents years of hard work by many dedicated individuals and institutions. I am inserting into the RECORD an editorial by Adrian O'Connor, "History at Belle Grove" which appeared in the *Winchester Star* on February 1, 2003. This piece outlines the unique partnership which helped create this park and the plans for its future. Following this editorial is a list of those who played a seminal role in bringing this park into existence.

HISTORY AT BELLE GROVE—NOW THERE ARE  
388 NATIONAL PARKS

History was made—or, should we say, further history was made—on a chilly, muscle-tightening morning near the front steps of Belle Grove Plantation.

With a gentle snow falling, cattle contentedly lowing in a distant pasture, and a late fog rolling across the surrounding fields—the latter a historical symmetry not lost on Virginia's senior senator, Republican John W. Warner—Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation became the 388th star in the National Park Service constellation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Observing the pristine carpet of snow around Belle Grove, Dr. Stanley Hirschberg, former president of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, likened it to a "fresh beginning" for the historic acreage and manor house near Middletown.

And so it is—a "fresh beginning" born of a partnership to preserve or, as Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-6th, called it, "a new way to protect and preserve." On Friday, the National Park Service officially joined the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation, and Belle Grove Plantation as caretakers of this historical gem—now known as the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

These four entities are now partners in a new-model national park, one whose very approach to land acquisition plows virgin ground in this field. Suffice it to say, at a time when rampant development is threatening the Chancellorsville battlefield park near Fredericksburg and dollars for such new endeavors are scarce in the federal budget, this is soil that needed to be furrowed in such fashion. And a steadfast combination from Virginia's congressional delegation—legislators eager to set a new and different precedent in the creation of national parks—saw that it was done.

What is new and different about this national park? For starters, the approach to acquiring land. There will be no acrimonious condemnation by the Federal government in this process; it will only purchase private property inside the 3,000-acre park when owners express a willingness to sell. Such guidelines, Mr. Warner said, need to be "replicated" across America.

"There's little money left for national parks," he said, after noting the weather and the fact that Confederate Gen. Judah A. Early attacked the Union Army ringing Belle Grove under a similar cover of fog on Oct. 19, 1864.

"Uncle Sam doesn't have to buy every square foot of land to bring about preservation."

In addition, all three lawmakers on hand for the ceremony—Messrs. Warner and Goodlatte as well as Rep. Frank Wolf, R-10th—noted that current residents and businesses will be able to live and work within the park's boundaries, and will be free to change or renovate their property as they see fit. And, as Mr. Wolf pointed out, this will be the first national park to allow historical re-enactments—i.e. the annual Battle of Cedar Creek—within its confines.

"There will be a partnership with the community, a reaching out beyond our boundaries," said Fran Mainella, director of the National Park Service.

Significant as well is the broad historical scope of this park. Though known primarily as the site of the climactic Civil War battle in the Shenandoah Valley, Cedar Creek/Belle Grove is more than just a Civil War battlefield. Much as its current watchwords—"Back Country to Breadbasket to Battlefield and Beyond"—duly suggest, the park will embrace a wide swath of our blessed heritage. Emphasis will be placed on Native American and French and Indian War history in addition to that of the Civil War. Central to these themes will be the Belle Grove manor house designed, so local lore has it, by Thomas Jefferson.

Thus, Mr. Wolf had it right when, taking in the panoramic surroundings Friday morning, he said that "we stand on the shoulders of giants." Now, however, it is time for us, as residents of this Valley, to build on the vision of these latter-day statesmen who strove so diligently to craft a new-model national park, one of which we can all be proud.

Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation: Suzanne Chilson, executive director; L.A.

"Butch" Fravel—vice president; Joseph Whitehorse, President; Board Members: Daniel Ambrose; John Cadden—Secretary; Martin Downey; Stanley Hirschberg; Mike Kehoe; Richard Kleese; Kay Ely Pierce; Sam Riggs; and Gary Rinkerman.

Belle Grove, Inc. Trustees: The late Mr. Jay Monahan; Mr. Frederick Andree, past president and Belle Grove Park Working Group representative; Mrs. Lilburn T. Talley, past president. Officers: Mr. Robert W. Claytor, President; Mrs. Harry F. Byrd, III, first vice president; Mrs. Charles Schutte, second vice president; Mrs. Mary Potter Robinson, immediate past president; Mr. David N. Carne, treasure; Mrs. Kathryn Perry Werner, assistant treasurer; Mrs. David Powers, secretary; Mrs. Charles O. Davis, assistant secretary; Mr. Jay Hillerson, at-large member, Executive Committee; Mr. D. Richard Hottel, Jr., At-Large Member, Executive Committee. Members: Mrs. Frank Armstrong, III; Mr. Douglas C. Arthur; Dr. Byron Brill; Mrs. Stuart Butler; Mrs. H. Robert Edwards; Mrs. Lee Fawcett; Dr. Clarence Geier; Mr. Lawrence P. Goldschmidt; Mrs. Jeffrey Harris; Ms. Maral Kalbian; Mrs. Thomas Larsen; Mrs. William H. Leachman, III; Mr. Christopher Lewis; Mr. Ron Llewellyn; Mrs. Gilbert McKown; Dr. Thomas S. Truban. Belle Grove staff: Elizabeth McClung, executive director, Park Working Group representative; Amy Keller, administrative assistant; Jacquelyn Williamson, Museum Shop manager/buyer; Ed Presley, program coordinator; Christopher Taucci, maintenance technician. Selected Belle Grove Advisory Council and Docent Guild Members: Advisory: Mr. Malcolm Brumback; Mr. John Copeland, mayor, Middletown, VA; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Lyon; Mrs. Eve Newman; Mrs. Gee Gee Pasquet. Docent Guild Members: Mrs. Jean Allen; Mr. Charles Davis; Mrs. Robert Dever; Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Frey; Mrs. Dolores Fridinger; Mrs. Mary Ellen Gross; Ms. Paula Hite; Mrs. Wanda Kruezfeldt; Ms. Barbara Moss.

National Park Service (NPS): Jeffrey P. Reinbold, NPS planner; Alexander "Sandy" Rives, NPS Virginia director; Wendy L. O'Sullivan, NPS project manager; Marie G. Rust, NPS Northeast regional director; Donald T. King, NPS chief of lands, Martinsburg office; Charles F. Blouser, NPS realty specialty, Martinsburg office; Fran P. Mainella, NPS director; Denny Galvin, former NPS deputy director; Alma Ripps, NPS legislative affairs specialist; Donald J. Hellmann, NPS deputy assistant director Legislative & Congressional Affairs; Steve Griles, Department of the Interior deputy secretary; Howard G. Miller, lands coordinator & control officer; Richard Moe, president, National Trust for Historic Preservation; David Brown, executive vice president, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Paul Edmondson, vice president and general counsel, National Trust for Historic Preservation; James Vaughan, vice president, Stewardship of Historic Sites, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Robert Nieweg, director, and regional attorney, Southern Field Office National Trust for Historic Preservation; Patrick Lally, director of Congressional Affairs, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Emma Panahy, program assistant, Southern Field Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Members of Congress: Senator John Warner; Senator George Allen; Rep. Bob Goodlatte; former Senator Chuck Robb, the late Rep. French Slaughter.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation Trustees: Patricia L. Zontine, chair of the Board of Trustees; Joseph E. Callahan; Vincent F. Callahan; Faye C. Cooper; James A. Davis; Beverly H. Fleming; Kay D. Frye; Nancy H. Hess; Susie M. Hill; Kathleen S.

Kilpatrick; Richard B. Kleese; William B. Kyger, Jr.; Allen L. Louderback; John W. Mountcastle; D. Eveland Newman; David W. Powers; Alexander L. Rives; Dan C. Stickley, Jr.; Kris C. Tierney; James L. White; the late Carrington Williams.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commissioners: Daniel J. Beattie; Larry D. Bradford; John L. Heatwole; Donovan E. Hower; Richard D. Kern; Janet O. Kilby; Scot W. Marsh; Nicholas J. Nerangis; the late Eugene L. Newman; William G. O'Brien; Joseph W.A. Whitehorse; H. Alexander Wise, Jr. Staff of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation: Howard J. Kittell; John Hutchinson, V; Nancy R. Long; Elizabeth Paradis Stern; Sherman L. Fleek.

Rep. Frank R. Wolf staff members: Daniel Scandling, chief of staff; Chris Santora, legislative assistant.

Senator John Warner staff member: Ann Loomis, legislative director.

## RECOGNIZING CARRIE BOYCE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carrie Boyce, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 472, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1.) earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2.) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3.) earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4.) designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and (5.) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Carrie refurbished and painted a playground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carrie Boyce for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

## TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DELANO PALUGHI

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Delano

Palughi, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last Saturday, February 22, 2003. Judge Palughi, who served with distinction on the Mobile County District Court, was a pillar of the Mobile community and a man whose character and generosity towards others will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Judge Palughi was deeply religious and attended mass daily, often at St. Mary's Catholic Church. His reverence for his country was strong as he opened his courtroom every morning with the Pledge of Allegiance. His dedication to his community and fellow man throughout his law practice, which he maintained for 40 years, and as Mobile County District Court Judge since his election in 1998, prompted the attendance of more than 600 family, friends, fellow judges and colleagues at the service honoring his life. Judge Palughi will be honored and remembered not only for his service to his community but for his unwillingness and inability to turn down an indigent prospective client during his many years practicing law. He represented the poor and downtrodden when others would not. The Reverend Paul Zoghby recognized Judge Palughi's kindness and humility and stated, at the service, that "If he's not there (in Heaven), I don't think the rest of us have a chance." His charitable nature will be missed amongst the legal community and the City of Mobile.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life of Delano Palughi. Judge Palughi's love for his wife of 33 years, Frances; his two sons, Vincent and Anthony; his brother, Peter; two grandchildren, family, friends and his church was the foundation of his compassionate and charitable manner towards clients and those who appeared before him as District Court Judge. I would like to extend my prayers and deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.J.  
RES. 2, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2003

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. BASS. I have come to the floor today to compliment the Committee on an excellent job balancing all the very important programs in the Omnibus Appropriations bill and particularly the Chapter of the bill that includes the matters that relate to the jurisdiction of the VA/ HUD Subcommittee. I know the spending limitations necessarily imposed on the Subcommittee do not permit the Chairman and other members to address each and every issue as fully as they would like, but nonetheless the chairman has achieved a balanced and good result. I want to extend this praise to Chairman WALSH and the other members of the subcommittee.

Earlier this year, a number of Members contacted the Subcommittee to express the view that the Veterans Health Administration be as proactive as possible to help ensure that disabled veterans have the most advanced prosthetic and sensory aids devices made available to them, as would be medically appropriate. I want to strongly associate myself with those views and in that regard, I was pleased

to see that the committee approved the Administration's fiscal year 2003 budget request for \$739.1 million for prosthetic and sensory aids devices providing an increase of \$60.3 million over last year's level. I am also most appreciative of the report language the committee included on this subject.

One of the exciting new prosthetic and sensory aids devices known as the IBOT was invented in my home State of New Hampshire. It is a mobility device that climbs stairs, traverses all-terrain, and balances the seated user at standing eye-level. It would be my view that some portion—at least 1 percent—of the approximately 25,000 veterans with service-connected spinal cord injuries should have access to this advanced mobility device. In fact, at the request of Congress, the VHA conducted a study of this mobility device last year that concluded with the finding that "the subjects were unanimous in their recommendation that the Veterans Health Administration should provide IBOTS to veterans" and that "the IBOT could improve integration and work performance." Additionally as Secretary Principi has established a priority of "restoring the capability of disabled veterans to the extent possible" it is my expectation that such devices will be actively considered and provided to disabled veterans as medically appropriate.

It is my view and the view of Members who I have discussed this matter with the Department should aggressively pursue making this mobility device and other state of the art assistive technologies available to veterans with disabilities as medically appropriate. I should state further that it is my intention to work with the Department and with Chairman WALSH over the next year to ensure that the Department does pursue this matter appropriately.

RECOGNIZING JENNIFER  
BLACKWELL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jennifer Blackwell, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 511, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a Scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, one, earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; two, earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; three, earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; fourth, designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote

Girl Scouting, and five, spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Jennifer collected school supplies for the Community Service League.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jennifer Blackwell for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNT PENN

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Mount Penn, Pennsylvania during its 100th anniversary celebration. Mount Penn, known as the "Friendly Borough," truly lives up to its moniker.

The area lying at the foot of Mount Penn was settled in 1748; it was originally named Dengler's, after one of its most prominent citizens. With busy Philadelphia Pike running through town, Dengler's quickly became a popular suburb of nearby Reading. Some of the first businesses were carriage and wagon works to help speed travelers along the 55-mile trip between Reading and Philadelphia.

In 1902, residents of the village petitioned the courts to create their own borough. On January 7, 1903, the petition was granted and the 500-citizen Mount Penn Borough was born. As time went on, trolley lines and paved roads running to all points around Mount Penn brought more visitors and settlers to the borough.

Today, Mount Penn has grown to around 242 acres and 3,000 residents—many of whom are third- and fourth-generation "Mountaineers." The Borough contains a thriving business district, including Leinbach's Hardware, which at 82 years old is the longest continually operated business in the borough.

Although the Borough has kept up with the times, it still retains the small-town feel that made it so appealing to travelers many years ago. In a day and age when many people do not even know their neighbors, Mount Penn is a shining example of what a community can be. I congratulate Mount Penn Borough on its one hundredth anniversary and call upon my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. STEWART

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. James E. Stewart of Foley, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by his friends, family and colleagues on "James E. Stewart Day" in Baldwin County, Alabama.

For the past fifty years, Jim Stewart has been the anchor of the Baldwin County radio

broadcast community. Beginning with the formation of Baldwin County's first radio station, WHEP, in Foley, Alabama, in 1953, Mr. Stewart has been the head of a growing broadcast family that has provided immeasurable joy and valuable information for thousands of listeners along Alabama's Gulf Coast. During his professional career, Mr. Stewart has been actively involved in the life of his community and has taken a leading role in many civic and professional organizations. Many groups including the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, the Alabama Council of Hospital Governing Boards, the Foley Rotary Club, and the South Baldwin Health Care Foundation have benefited from his experience, leadership and interest in promoting further growth in Baldwin County, and from his desire to ensure that his fellow residents received the best that life in South Alabama has to offer.

Moreover, Mr. Stewart has received on many occasions the most important recognition of all: the respect and admiration of his professional peers. From his service in the Alabama Radio-Television Broadcasters Association to membership on Legislative Liaison Committees of the National Association of Broadcasters, Jim Stewart has been honored for his outstanding professional and journalistic integrity and for his genuine concern for and love of his community and state.

Mr. Speaker, I don't feel there are a sufficient number of honors or awards to recognize the significant contributions Jim Stewart has made during the past five decades, nor are there enough words to express the thanks of the many people he has touched during that time. I can only express my deepest appreciation for his service to Baldwin County and to the entire State of Alabama. His many accomplishments during his life can be counted; the tremendous number of lives he has impacted cannot.

#### RECOGNIZING CRYTAL BANUELOS

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Crystal Banuelos, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 116, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1) earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3) earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4) designing a selfdevelopment plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of

15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and (5) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Crystal organized a poetry and writing appreciation program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Crystal Banuelos for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENTS WISHES A DEAR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND, DAVID HOLMES, WELL IN HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The Executive Committee of Correspondents conveys its gratitude on behalf of the more than 250 publications and 1,800 reporters who benefited from your 28 years as director of the House Periodical Press Gallery.

Over the decades, you have helped the gallery grow and expand, ranging from the number of reporters served to the amount of information available. You have kept the gallery and its staff up to date with the latest technology and pushed for even greater technological advances.

Reporters have always found you a valuable resource. Your vast knowledge of Congressional rules and procedures will be sorely missed, as will your keen political insights and ability to steer reporters in the right direction.

You have always looked out for the best interests of reporters and fought for increased access to lawmakers and events. You deserve our thanks and gratitude for getting to know the right people throughout the years so that we could do our jobs with minimum of interference.

We also acknowledge your role in defending our interests in court when the need arose and for always being fair and impartial when it came to credentialing new organizations for admittance into the gallery.

For all these and so many more reasons, the Executive Committee thanks you for your many years of service and wishes you and Shauna a happy, long and well-deserved retirement.

Sincerely,

CHERYL BOLEN  
HEIDI GLENN  
RICHARD COHEN  
TIM CURRAN  
DOUGLAS WALLER  
TERENCE SAMUEL  
LORRAINE WOELLERT

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY FARM TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2003

#### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Farm Tax Simplification Act of 2003, legislation that will allow married co-owners of family farms to significantly reduce the amount of time it takes to prepare a correct income tax return and to provide both spouses with Social Security and Medicare coverage.

As ranking member of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, I am pleased that we held a hearing on this issue earlier in the month and that, today, we are able to quickly move forward and act to simplify the tax law. I am honored to have the Oversight Subcommittee Chairman HOUGHTON join me in cosponsoring this bill.

The National Taxpayer Advocate has reported that approximately 3,000 family farmers in North Dakota may not be eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits because of the onerous partnership tax rules associated with preparing the return that allows both spouses to pay into the Social Security and Medicare systems. The IRS estimates that it takes the average partnership approximately 165–200 hours to prepare its return.

As a result, some family farms have chosen to file a sole proprietor return, attributing all income to, and paying self-employment taxes on, only one spouse. Unfortunately, when this occurs, the other spouse will not be covered under the Social Security and Medicare systems. Many, many hard-working couples are getting a bad deal under the current system, and they will not find out about it until it is too late.

For example, take a family farm run equally by husband and wife. If the business files a return with the husband as sole proprietor, he would be awarded Social Security disability benefits if he becomes disabled, alleviating some of the financial burden of his disability on the family. However, if the wife becomes disabled, she is unable to collect Social Security disability. By not collecting this benefit, the business is further financially disadvantaged.

Current law puts husband and wife businesses in a serious dilemma with a difficult choice under our current tax return filing rules. If they file a partnership return which is technically correct they face hundreds of hours in tax return preparation and/or very expensive charges from a tax attorney or accountant. If they file a sole proprietorship return, which is technically not correct, one of the spouses loses coverage for Social Security disability benefits, Social Security survivorship benefits, and Medicare benefits.

The IRS has been "winking" at letting couples file as a sole proprietorship since there generally is no tax liability difference between the two approaches to filing. In fact, these couples are subject to serious civil and criminal penalties for filing incorrect returns. This is just a plain, bad arrangement.

The solution is quite simple. The tax law needs to be changed to allow a couple to file a simple return with income attributed to both spouses and both spouses paying into the Social Security/Medicare system.

The Family Farm Tax Simplification Act of 2003 would allow a married couple to elect to file a joint Form 1040 tax return—through which each spouse is treated as a sole proprietor of the business, and each spouse is allocated part of the farm's business income, gain or loss. By offering this election, both spouses are able to pay self-employment taxes and, thus, can both be covered by the Social Security and Medicare systems. With very few exceptions, the proposal would not affect a couples' total income tax liability nor their total Social Security/Medicare tax contribution.

Finally, I have asked the Taxpayer Advocate to provide the Oversight Subcommittee with more information on how legislation, such as I am introducing today, might apply in the case of non-farm small businesses. I will be receiving a State-by-State analysis of such firms and a description of how the commonly-used Schedule C could be modified to simplify returns for these taxpayers. I would hope that tax simplification reforms provided in my bill could be expanded to other types of small family-owned firms.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to help family farmers receive Social Security and Medicare benefits. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this important legislation.

#### DEFENSE TRANSFORMATION

### HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important challenges facing our Nation is to transform the most successful military in the world so that it is better able to meet the security needs to the years ahead. I would like to submit for the record and commend to my colleagues an outstanding speech entitled, "Transforming the Defense Establishment," by Dr. Stephen A. Cambone, Department of Defense Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation, which was delivered before Bear Stearns and Company on January 27, 2003. In my view, Dr. Cambone's emphasis on changing the culture of organizations is particularly important.

As we consider the President's 2004 defense budget request, we should give careful attention to the excellent insights offered by Dr. Cambone.

In his September 1999 speech at the Citadel, then-candidate George Bush declared that, if elected, he would seize on an opportunity created by what he called a "revolution in the technology of war." As a result of that revolution, he said, power "is increasingly defined not by mass or size but by mobility and swiftness. Influence is measured in information, safety is gained in stealth, and force is projected on the long arc of precision-guided weapons. This revolution perfectly matches the strength of our country, the skill of our people, and the superiority of our technology. The best way to keep the peace," he said, "is to redefine war on our terms."

The President went on to sketch his vision of the armed forces. He said, "Our forces in the next century must be agile, lethal, read-

ily deployable, and require a minimum of logistical support. We must be able to project our power over long distances, in days and weeks, rather than months. Our military must be able to identify targets by a variety of means, from a Marine patrol on the ground to a satellite in space, and then it must be able to destroy those targets almost instantly with an array of weapons from the submarine-launched cruise missile to mobile long-range artillery."

"Our land forces," he said, "must be lighter, our light forces must be more lethal, and all must be easier to deploy. And, these forces must be organized in smaller, more agile formations, than cumbersome divisions." "On the seas, we need to pursue promising ideas . . . to destroy targets from great distances." "In the air, we must be able to strike from across the world with pinpoint accuracy with long-range aircraft and perhaps with unmanned systems." "In space, we must be able to protect our network of satellites essential to our flow of commerce and defense of our country."

As a way of underscoring his determination to bring about the transformation of the military forces of the United States, the President reminded the audience of another time of what he called "rapid change and momentous choices." "In the late 1930s, as Britain refused to adapt to the new realities of war, Winston Churchill observed, 'The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedience, of delays, is coming to a close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences.'"

Well, that period of consequences arrived here in this city just two years later, on September 11, 2001. The remainder of this talk will focus on how we have answered the call laid down by the President during his candidacy. Let me sum them up: He asked us to do three things. He asked us to assure the well-being of the men and women in uniform and the civilians who work for the Department. He asked us to provide the means to them to defeat today's threats. He asked us to take on the transformation of the defense establishment to meet the challenges of the future. Before I take on each in turn, that is to say, what we've done for our people, how we've met today's challenges, and what we are doing for the future, let me take a moment to tell you what we think transformation is, and what it is not.

What it is, we think, is a continuing effort over time. It is not a static objective in time. So, if you are looking to judge this transformational process or the progress that we have made, and you try to pin it to a certain place in a certain time and use a static measure, you will be disappointed and probably mislead yourself and others.

Secondly, it is a change in culture. A change in culture that is reflected in what we do, how we do it, and the means we choose to accomplish our objectives. I can't stress enough the importance of the change in culture that comes with the transformation. Those of you who have watched various companies merge and come apart over the last decade or so will understand just how important changes in culture are to a transformational effort.

It's also about balancing risk. We have identified risk in four categories. The first area of risk has to do, not surprisingly, with our people. Are we keeping them in proper trim, as it were? Do they have the means to do their training; are they able to see their families; do they live in decent housing? Second, are we able to conduct operations today at a minimum of risk not, mind you, without risk, but at a minimum of risk, by assuring

that our people are well positioned, well led, and have the proper means to conduct operations? Third, have we made the investments that are necessary to prepare for the future? and lastly, our business practices; have we gone any way toward reforming them? It is our belief that those four categories of risk need to be properly balanced. We cannot over-invest in any one and expect to succeed in all.

Now, let me say a word about what we think transformation is not. It is not change for its own sake. Nor is it measured as a success or a failure on the basis of programs that have been cancelled, programs that have been completed, or programs that have begun. It is easy to keep score that way, and we will, in a few minutes, talk about some of the programs that we have cancelled and programs that we have begun. But, again, that is not a very good scorecard of the progress of this transformational effort.

I call you back again to what transformation is. It's about culture, about what we do, how we do it, and the means we choose to accomplish those objectives. If you were going to develop a checklist to measure transformation, I offer you the following set of points. There are seven, and I'll give them to you in fairly quick order.

The first would be to look at the guidance that we have given both to our civilian and military personnel. Some of that guidance is available to you, for example, in the form of the National Security Strategy that has been published by the White House and the Quadrennial Defense Review that was published by the Department of Defense. Others are not available to you—except when they're leaked to the newspapers—for example:

The Nuclear Posture Review, which reconfigured our nuclear forces, and allowed the President to take the steps to reduce the size of our nuclear offensive arsenal and to incorporate into our future strategic force conventional weapons as well as nuclear weapons. The Contingency Planning Guidance, which is given to our combatant commanders and signed out by the President, and which directs combatant commanders to prepare plans for contingencies now and into the future that reflect the tenets of the strategy that was laid down in the National Security Strategy and the Quadrennial Defense Review. But guidance is fine going back to my point about culture, however: Are we changing the culture? It is often changed by changes in organizations. And I have to tell you, we have changed organizations quite extensively within the Department. We have done so with the aim of enabling what we call joint operations, i.e., the ability of our land, sea, air, and space forces to be combined under the control of a single combatant commander and used in ways that are most appropriate to achieving the objectives of the campaign that he has laid out.

We have changed the structure of our commands: We have added a combatant command for the United States called Northern Command. It "stood up" just recently. We have merged our Space Command and the old Strategic Command into a new command designed to make use of the new instruments of strategic power. We have changed the mission of our Special Operations Command. We have undertaken changes to our organization in the office of the Secretary of Defense. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force—each of them has restructured their staffs and their functions.

Third, I said we were interested in joint operations. Well, it turns out the Department

of Defense does not have a joint concept to guide the conduct of joint operations. What we have are concepts that have been generated by each of the services about how they would prefer to fight. We have, however, no overarching concept for the employment of the joint force. So we have, indeed, set about that task. I would expect by springtime, probably early summer, that we will, indeed, have a joint operational concept that will begin to frame for our services how they ought to go about the task they have under Title X—to man, train, and equip the armed forces of the United States.

But the services—the fourth point of the seven—have not been lagging behind. If, for example, you look at what the Navy is proposing, what the Army is proposing, what the Air Force and the Marines are proposing, you will see their effort to begin transforming their own service and to make it friendly to the joint operational environment. But it's not enough to say we want to fight joint, we have to train joint, so we have taken steps to put in place a substantial amount of funding to enable joint training, and we will do it for the most part in a virtual environment, but this will be an enormous step in the direction toward joint operations.

What about our investments? Investment is made up of a combination of RDT&E—research, development, test and evaluation—coupled to what we procure. We will talk in a few minutes about that investment, but I do believe that, if you look at it, you will begin to notice that it is favoring the enabling of joint warfare. So, as we look through our choices during the course of our just-completed program review, we constantly came back to the same question: What will this investment do for joint warfighting?

Lastly, processes and practices within the Department of Defense. Under Secretary Wynne and Dr. Zakheim, both of whom have spoken to you, and others are working very hard to alter the manner in which we do our business. This will be the most transforming thing the Department of Defense can do. We can spend a great deal of time on any of these seven points, but let me ask you to bear in mind a summary point that arises out of them: Because we do not know who our adversaries may be either in the near term or the long term; or how they may choose to fight; but because we do know that modern technology is available to our adversaries or potential adversaries, as readily as it is available to us; and because we know that as a democratic society we are vulnerable to attack: We decided to pursue our strategy for transformation in a way that would provide our combatant commanders with what we are calling a portfolio of capabilities. We have tried to avoid the point solution to any particular problem. We are looking to equip them with a portfolio of capabilities with which that combatant commander can conduct joint operations. The reason I mention this to you is that, as you begin to review the budget programs and think your way through what that means, you've got to keep coming back to the question: Has the Department chosen the right set of capabilities to support joint operations?

Next, let me outline what those capabilities and joint operations are intended to provide. Let me tick off a list of six points for you that we think are the appropriate characteristics by which to measure these capabilities. First, does it permit the force to rapidly transition from its steady state peacetime garrison its training its presence mission does it allow it to transition rapidly into combat operations? Second, do we have a set of capabilities that will provide timely

and wide-ranging effects applied to targets throughout the full depth—the full depth—of an adversary's battle space? Third, can we apply those effects to both fixed and mobile targets? Fixed targets are a delight; they sort of stay right where you always thought they were. It's the ones that move around that vex us all, and it's very, very difficult trying to track and attack those targets. Fourth, does it provide us the kind of persistent surveillance we're going to need especially for the purposes of tracking mobile targets.

Let me digress here for a moment. The difficulties we see in the efforts to gain intelligence is a function of how hard it is to gain that intelligence. If one has only a periodic view of events, it is difficult to collect and stitch that information together. To the extent that we are able to provide a persistent level of surveillance for our combatant commanders, they will be able to make their plans with a great deal more knowledge and information than they have today. We must continue to dominate the air, we need to learn how to operate from sea bases, and we need to improve our ground maneuverability. Fifth, the above capabilities need to allow us, as well, to hold at risk an adversary's command and control network as well as his weapons of mass destruction. Sixth and last, but not least by any means, they are capabilities that we must have in order to be able to force any fight in which we find ourselves to a rapid conclusion.

That concludes the top-level chapeau of what we're trying to do and why. Let me turn to our program proposals. I'll begin with the most important resource that we have, which is our people. We have, since 2001, made a substantial effort to increase the pay and benefits of our troops. We have, in fact, gone farther than others might have thought. We have gone to a targeted pay raise for our senior enlisted and mid-career officers to ensure that we keep the talent that we need and develop the skill sets that a military 10 and 15 years from now is going to require. We have also managed to reduce to near-elimination within two years the kinds of out-of-pocket expenses that our personnel have to pay for their housing when they live on the economy. In terms of housing on bases, we will have eliminated most of (the substandard) housing by 2007, and we will have privatized a lot of that housing, particularly with respect to the Navy and Army. And, as I said, we have gone a long way toward providing the kind of joint, national training that we think our people are going to need in the years to come.

In addition to our people, we need a firm foundation, a solid foundation, in what we call our operations and support activities and in the infrastructure that is part of the Defense establishment. Toward that end, we have included in the proposal that we sent to the President, and that he will send on to Capitol Hill, a great deal of additional monies over this program period designed to support our operations and maintenance budgets. We did this for a very good and sound reason. Over the years, what has happened is that funds for operations and maintenance, the daily upkeep of the force, has been systematically underfunded. The consequence of systematically underfunding it has been that, in the event, in any given year, when those bills begin to mount, the services went looking for dollars. Where that money came from traditionally has been out of the investment account, that is, out of procurement and out of RDT&E. What we are looking to do is to stabilize the investment programs by funding the O&M accounts. That is a principled approach to what we are trying to do. So, the hope is that over time, those investments will be more stable than they have been in the past.

Investments. With respect to the investments, as I said, we have both RDT&E and procurement in the account. That account is up substantially, on average, over what was in the plan that we found when we arrived at the beginning of 2001. What is interesting about it is that, proportionally, we have increased the RDT&E accounts a bit more than we have the procurement accounts. There's a reason for that. One is that it signifies a certain leaning by the Department toward reducing the risks of having inappropriate forces and equipment in future years.

It also reflects an approach toward funding some of our near-term efforts, particularly with respect to the Navy, which will fund the first ship of four new classes of ships that it intends to begin during the course of this program. It will fund that first ship of each class out of its RDT&E accounts because in fact those ships are, indeed, experimental, from the point of view of the Navy. The services, in trying to meet the demands of transformation, have made some important decisions about shifting their resources. You will discover, for example, when looking at the Army's accounts, that: It will have moved roughly \$20 billion out of programs it might have funded in its '02 program into different accounts. It has, since 2002, terminated 24 systems, and it has reduced or restructured another 24. It has done so for two reasons: first, in order to be able to fund its highest priority for modernization.

Second, at the same time, the Army, over this coming program period, will shift something on the order of \$13-14 billion into the development of its Future Combat System. That is, indeed, its transformational system. The Navy, from the period of 2002 until the end of this program period: will have retired 36 ships. Some of those ships could have been modernized. Service life extension programs could have been conducted for those ships. The Navy decided to retire them, take the savings, and invest those savings into a number of new classes of ships. Those ship classes include a new littoral combat ship, a new cruiser, a new destroyer, a new helicopter-deck ship, and a new prepositioning ship, and it includes resources shifted to a new design for the next generation of aircraft carrier. The Air Force, for its part, has moved something on the order of \$20 billion in its budget. It has retired a number of older aircraft, it has done some internal consolidations of its squadrons. It has funded its highest priorities which are its readiness and people and, importantly, it has made commitments to a number of programs which I will discuss in a moment.

So, there is a great deal of work going on inside the Department in terms of reallocating resources. It's not simply a matter of having been afforded more money by Congress, but rather, we have taken steps to move dollars inside the accounts in the Department. Now, when we're done, what we think, is that that capabilities package that I talked about will enable us to better perform what we think are six of the most important operational goals for our force. Let me give them to you: First, we have to defend what we call our bases of operation, that is to say, the United States, our people, our forces abroad, and our allies. We have to protect them not only against the kinds of attacks that occurred two years ago in New York and at the Pentagon, but also against missile strikes and other forms of offensive operations. We have to be able to project and sustain our forces abroad. Recalling the President's words, we need to be able to move quickly in order to bring the fight to a quick conclusion. Third, we need to be able to deny sanctuary to our adversary. This is where the issue of persistent surveillance, for example, comes into play. If we're trying



to find terrorists hiding in remote places, we have to have the ability to essentially sit on top of them and their activities and watch them and follow them as they go about their business. But having done that, we have to be able to attack an adversary no matter where they are and no matter how deep inside the land mass they may be or where they might be on the oceans or in the air. Fourth, we have got to enhance our space capabilities. We are highly dependent upon space for both commercial and defense needs, and we will have made a substantial investment in enhancing those capabilities. Fifth, we need to do what is necessary to leverage our information advantage. Last, we need to ensure that the information on the network is secure.

So, in making our investment set, let me tick off for you some of those which have probably gotten your attention for a variety of reasons. The first is missile defense. The President committed to bringing about a missile defense for the United States. We have invested quite heavily in the RDT&E program for missile defense. The President has decided that, beginning in 2004, we will begin to deploy a small number of interceptors inside a test bed arrangement that we have developed for the testing of our land-based missile defense capabilities. Those interceptors will give us a modest capability against a small number of long-range ballistic missile warheads launched at the United States. That test bed is located on land, so the President has asked us as well to see if we couldn't put some missile defense interceptors aboard ship by about the 2004 time frame as well, and we have committed to doing so.

We have made a very large investment in transformational communications. What do I mean by that? It has three parts. We are committed to the development of a laser-based communications satellite, which will allow us to communicate by light via space. Today, we do it by radio-frequency waves, both from ground to satellite and from satellite to satellite. What we hope to be able to do is to do that by light. Essentially, we hope to move fiber optics into space. We have, as well, made a very large investment in expanding what we call our global information grid which is, itself, a fiber-optic net, which will be expanded substantially. We have made major investments in command, control, communications, and computing systems. We have made a similar investment in assuring the information net will work within that transformational communications system.

In order to gain the persistence that I have talked about, we have made investments in systems like Global Hawk, which is an unmanned drone aircraft that is loaded with sensors. You have read, I'm sure, of the exploits of Predator, a much smaller drone that has been used extensively in Afghanistan. But we have also invested in a space-based system, which is a radar. The idea is that, if we are able, around 2012, to put up a constellation of satellites, these radar satellites would enable us to have the kind of persistent surveillance that I talked about a few moments ago. If you take the information that is available on the space-based radar and other surveillance assets and imagine moving them through a system that I described that is essentially a fiber-optics system, you can understand how fast we can move that information, how much information we can move, and the fact that we can move it and deliver it in formats that are useful to the receivers. If we can do that, and we believe we can, we will be able to see, hear, talk, act, and assess much more rapidly than any adversary we could encounter. If we can do that, in near-real time, we will

have achieved what many might want to call information superiority.

Shipbuilding. Let me take a moment there. We have committed to about seven ships a year if we can do it. That will enable us to stabilize the shipbuilding base over the course of the FYDP, but we also have made a major decision with respect to the Navy's follow-on aircraft carrier, called CVN-21. The Navy has taken many of the improvements that would have been included in a ship that they had believed would begin building in FY2011 and has moved many of those technologies and changes in the organization and internal structure of the ship and its equipment sets back to the carrier that is slated to begin construction in FY2007. With respect to combat air forces, we have studiously gone about the business of attempting to create competition for the missions in this area. As you know, we have the F-22, the F/A-18. They are the main aircraft in production. The Joint Strike Fighter is intended to follow on toward the end of this decade, but in addition, we have made investments to improve our capabilities with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), unmanned aerial vehicles like Global Hawk and Predator, and their successors. We have made an investment in a national aerospace initiative which will stress hypersonic missile technology which will allow us to move at very rapid speed. As the principal proponent of that program likes to say, "Speed kills." You can imagine that hitting a target at 7 or 8 Mach will do real damage to that target. Lastly, we have tried to look at whether or not we can revive a conventional ballistic missile capability which would, as the President said, allow us to strike around the world at a moment's notice with pinpoint accuracy.

The Army, for its part, is deep into its transformational effort in keeping with the President's words about being more lethal and quicker to move and not taking so long to build up. The Army is attempting to do so with its objective force and its so-called "Future Combat System." They are hopeful to come in this Spring with their proposals on how they intend to proceed with this program, and as I said a moment ago, they have invested near to \$14 billion over the FYDP for that program. Those are some of the highlights of the investment strategy, and let me just tick off for you some of those changes. When we started in 2001 on this process of transforming our capabilities, we didn't have a missile defense capability; by 2004, we hope to have a limited capability. We were using conventional radio-frequency waves for our satellite communications; we hope to move to laser-based communications. We didn't have a space-based radar program; we do now, and we hope we can deploy it by 2012. We had no submarines that could launch large numbers of conventional cruise missiles. Well, we've taken four submarines out of the strategic force, took the nuclear weapons off them, and we intend to put conventional cruise missiles on them and use them as strike platforms well into the next decades. I've already mentioned the carriers. We will have a CVN-21 beginning in FY-07. The surface fleet was aging. It will shrink a bit in the coming years, only to begin to increase its numbers as we go into the 2006-7-8 time frame. We will have four new ship classes. We merged the tactical air programs of the Navy and the Air Force. I've mentioned the family of UAVs and the UCAVs, and I've mentioned the housing and the facilities improvements. So, let me conclude. We are a nation at war; we do not know how long it will last, but it is unlikely to be short. We cannot know where all of its battles will be fought. There are multiple fronts in this war, and there is no single the-

ater of operations. We do know that we are all at risk, at home and abroad, civilians and military alike. We do know that battles and campaigns will be both conventional and unconventional in their conduct. Some of those battles and campaigns will be fought in the open, and others will be fought in secret, where our victories will be known to only a few. For the Department of Defense, it means that we now plan and fight today's battles even as we prepare for that longer campaign. In light of this, let me remind you of how the President assesses his 1999 speech at the Citadel. Two years later, in December of 2001, he returned to the Citadel and said the following: "The need for military transformation was clear before the conflict in Afghanistan and before September 11. At the Citadel in 1999, I spoke of keeping the peace by redefining war on our terms. We have," he said, "a sense of urgency about this task, the need to build this future force while fighting the present war is an urgent need." And then he said, "It's like overhauling an engine when you're going 80 miles an hour, but we have no other choice." So, mindful of the urgency to transform, as the President expressed in his Citadel speech a year ago, I can say that we will press this war to its conclusion. But even as we do, we will plan and prepare for the future when that war is won, and the world itself has been transformed. Thank you very much.

#### RECOGNITION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WE THE PEOPLE PARTICIPANTS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

**HON. WILLIAM J. JANKLOW**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. JANKLOW. Mr. Speaker, I would like, today, to recognize the following high school class in Marion, South Dakota.

On April 26, 2003, more than 1200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Marion High School from Marion will represent the state of South Dakota in this national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The three-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) revealed that students enrolled in the We the People program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. Researchers at the Council for Basic Education noted, "[T]eachers feel excited and renewed. . . . Students are enthusiastic about what they have been able to accomplish, especially in terms of their ability to carry out a reasoned argument. They have become energized about their place as citizens of the United States."

The class from Marion High School is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People national finals.

#### RECOGNIZING SARAH AMBRIZ

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sarah Ambriz, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, troop 1381, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. Earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. Earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assess-

ment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Sarah organized a music clinic for elementary school children.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sarah Ambriz for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO IRVING L. DILLIARD

##### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Irving L. Dilliard.

A resident of my hometown of Collinsville, IL, Irving passed from this life on October 9th from complications of leukemia. An accomplished writer, editor, and well-known authority on the Constitution and the Supreme Court, Irving wrote more than 10,000 editorials and many books. Irving also wrote about those people who didn't often make headlines; he used his talent to bring attention to various injustices throughout the world.

Irving attended Collinsville High School and was a 1927 graduate of the University of Illinois. While attending the U of I, he was initiated into the Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity. Irving continued his dedication to the fraternity by serving as AKL National President from 1936–38. Irving eventually went on to become one of the first Nieman Fellows at Harvard University, a year-long graduate program for journalists.

Irving became a reporter at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in the late 1920s. Soon after joining the newspaper staff, Irving wrote a pamphlet on the 1787 Constitutional Convention entitled, "Building the Constitution", which was then distributed to schools for free and saw 850,000 copies in print.

Irving joined the war effort in 1943 by enlisting in the Army to serve in World War II. He earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and served as a psychological warfare specialist on Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff. He was also an editorial adviser for the European edition of Stars and Stripes during the war.

Following the war, Irving rejoined the Post-Dispatch, this time as an editorial writer. He worked his way up to editorial page editor by 1949. During his years at the newspaper, Irving was known as an expert on the Supreme Court and Constitution. Irving eventually retired from the Post-Dispatch in 1960. However, his career in journalism did not end at this time; Irving went on to teach that subject for 10 years at Princeton University.

Following his years as an educator, he continued to serve his state and country by serving as the first director of the Illinois Department of Aging. As late as 1995, Irving was still working for the people, this time as an Illinois delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.

Irving held many honors throughout his long career. He was president of the Illinois State Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Library, and the Society of Professional Journalists. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois in 1960—receiving more than 2 million votes statewide. Irving also remained loyal to his hometown of Collinsville by holding a seat on the Collinsville Library Board for 52 years; 23 of those years he served as president.

Irving Dilliard was the epitome of a great American citizen. He was a dedicated servant to his community, state, and nation and will be greatly missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO LUIS MUÑOZ MARÍN

##### HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, last week Puerto Ricans celebrated the birthday of one of our greatest and most beloved leaders: Luis Muñoz Marín. Today I want to honor Muñoz Marín's memory and recognize his contribution to democracy and progress in Puerto Rico and the Americas.

Muñoz was the architect of Puerto Rico's commonwealth status and the promoter of an economic revolution that transformed Puerto Rican society. Muñoz was a true champion of liberalism and democracy and had absolute confidence in the capacity of Puerto Ricans to govern themselves. Muñoz dedicated his life to strengthen our democracy and to promote the best of our culture. His vision translated into the "Estado Libre Asociado" (or Commonwealth), which allowed Puerto Ricans to approve their own constitution and achieve a high degree of self-government in association with the United States.

Muñoz understood that social justice was the basis of true prosperity and thus he made social justice the cornerstone of the Popular Democratic Party, which he founded in 1938.

Muñoz worked closely with several Presidents, including Presidents Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Kennedy, and was a key player in the implementation of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. He was a proud United States citizen, but was also very proud of his Puerto Rican nationhood.

Twice in about a decade, Time Magazine graced its cover with Muñoz Marín's portrait. Muñoz Marín will always be remembered for his contributions to promote democracy and social justice in the Americas. Muñoz died in 1980, but his legacy is very much alive. Today, as a new generation of leaders lays the foundations for a further enhancement of the commonwealth status, let's all remember and honor Luis Muñoz Marín.

#### RECOGNIZING SHAUNA BRYANT

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shauna Bryant, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest



qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, troop 1815, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and; 5. spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a girl scout gold award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Shauna updated a refurbished girl's locker room.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shauna Bryant for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

**JULIE DASH—DIRECTOR'S GUILD  
AWARD NOMINATION, THE ROSA  
PARKS STORY**

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my pride over the nomination of Ms. Julie Dash for a prestigious Director's Guild Award for her work on *The Rosa Parks Story*. She was nominated in the category of Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Movies for Television for 2002. The winners will be announced at the 55th Annual DGA Awards Dinner on Saturday, March 1, 2003 at The Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Ms. Dash is the only female nominated in this category this year.

The *Rosa Parks Story* stars Angela Bassett, Cicily Tyson and Dexter Scott King, the son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The film brings to life the peaceful dissent an exhausted Rosa Parks showed on a crowded Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955, and the Civil Rights Movement that ensued. The movie originally aired on television on February 24, 2002.

It seems appropriate that Ms. Dash would be nominated for this award during Black History Month. African American actors, directors and others in the industry are hard-pressed to find meaningful, quality projects. Given these challenges, I am even more proud of Ms. Dash's achievement today.

Ms. Dash's own story of success is also very inspiring. She was born and raised in New York City, and in 1992 became the first African American woman to have her film,

*Daughters of the Dust*, receive a full-length theatrical release. In 1994 Ms. Dash was chosen as one of the 100 Fearless Women by *Mirabella* magazine.

She has received numerous awards, including The Sojourner Truth Award from the New York Chapter of the Links, the Maya Deren Award from the American Film Institute, a Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

I was honored to host a congressional screening of the film, *The Rosa Parks Story*, last year prior to the film's television debut. I had the good fortune then of meeting Ms. Dash, along with Ms. Cicily Tyson, Ms. Angela Bassett, and many others who were instrumental in the success of this movie.

This film has held meaning and significance for me personally, and it brings me great joy to see Ms. Dash's work recognized by the Director's Guild of America. I wish her the best at the awards ceremony on March 1st!

**HONORING EARL F. BROWN, JR.**

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Earl F. Brown, Jr. has been a true leader in South Carolina for decades, with a long history of service to his community and country. I want to commend him for his tireless work and take a look at his history.

From 1973 to 2001, Mr. Brown was employed with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, SCHAC. While at SCHAC he served as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner for External Affairs, Director for Community Relations and Director of Compliance and Investigations.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Brown was educated in the public schools of Duval County. He was accepted at Savannah State College on a basketball scholarship and played the point guard position on the 1952 Southeastern Athletic Conference Championship Team. After completion of the Bachelor of Science in Political Science, he was drafted in the U.S. Army and served as a military aide to Brigadier General Frank F. Bowen, Jr. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1956.

Upon leaving the military in 1956, he joined the staff of the Afro-American Insurance Company in Jacksonville, Florida as an Insurance Counselor. Mr. Brown began his community activities as a volunteer in 1957 with the local NAACP as its Public Relations/Chairman of the Voters Registration Drive for Duval County and later served on the statewide voter registration team. He served as a community organizer and community leader for eight years in the struggle for equality and employment.

In 1964, he enrolled in Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and received an A.B. Degree in Social Science and Psychology in 1966.

Mr. Brown's career as a public servant took flight when in 1966, he assumed the position as a public school teacher at W.A. Perry Junior High School. In 1967, he was offered a position as Probation Officer and Counselor for the Richland County Family Court System. In

April 1969, he was awarded a Ford Foundation Scholarship to study at the Duke University Institute of Developmental Administration and Management System. In 1971, he completed Harvard University's Institute of Educational Management program. In 1977, he received a MCJ Degree from the University of South Carolina with a concentration in "Court Administration".

Mr. Brown is a 1987 graduate of Leadership Columbia, a graduate of the Governor's Leadership School of South Carolina in 1988, a 1996 graduate of the Executive Institute, and a Certified Labor Arbitrator by the South Carolina Labor Department.

Earl Brown's professional and civic activities as well as his awards and honors are numerous and have included: Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Chairman of the Board of Commissioners—Richland County Airport; President, Capital Senior Center, Inc.; Southern Regional Vice President-National Association of Human Rights Workers; Chairman of Cooperative Ministries of the Midlands (SC); Vice-President of The Brookland Foundation; Chairman of Board of Directors-Central Midlands (SC) Councils of Government; President of Richland/Lexington (SC) Chapter State Employees Association; Chairman of American Red Cross Blood Service, Board of Directors for South Carolina Region; Chairman of Columbia Housing Development Corporation, Inc.; President of College of Criminal Justice Alumni Association, University of South Carolina; Member of United Way of Midlands (SC); Member of Richland County School District 1 (SC) Education Advisory Committee; Member of American Arbitration Association; Outstanding Citizen Award from the National Council of Negro Women (1980); President's Award for Outstanding Service to Savannah State College (1980); The Southeastern Providence Achievement Award 1971 "Man of the Year"; Elected to "Who's Who in America" 15th Edition (1975); and President's Award for Outstanding Services and Leadership to the American Red Cross Blood Services for the South Carolina Region (1995).

Mr. Brown is a member of Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, South Carolina. He is the father of two children, Kim and Felton.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Brown for setting an example for reaching out to a community in need, and working to make the lives of those around him better. He is an inspiration to South Carolina and the Nation.

**INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO  
BUILD A NEW BRIDGE NEAR  
FOLSOM DAM**

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, in the 1950s a new artery opened that has helped alleviate traffic in the booming Sacramento region for close to half a century: the Folsom Dam Road.

Built to provide both flood protection and water reserves, a road also runs across the top of the Folsom Dam, thus providing better access to the growing communities in Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado Counties.

In recent years I have often argued that the growth in the region demands a new, bigger

bridge to handle the more than 18,000 commuters who traveled across the dam each day.

In addition to the congestion on the narrow dam road, I argued that in the wake of the September 11 attacks, providing an alternative to traffic became a security risk as well. With the dam so close to Sacramento, the access to the dam was a tempting target to terrorists who might want to attack my hometown and community. Security was increased at the dam—the only facility in the nation with a public road running across it besides the Hoover Dam, and the only one adjacent to a heavily populated area. But many of us still had concerns.

Last week, the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Reclamation—which runs the dam—came to the same conclusion: allowing traffic on the dam is too dangerous. Last Thursday they announced the closure of the dam road to all vehicle and foot traffic, effective this Friday, February 28, 2003. Said a spokesman for the bureau, “In order to protect the facility and the 900,000 people below it, we have decided to take this step.”

Unfortunately, there is still no new bridge to provide an alternative to the tens of thousands in the region who used the bridge as their avenue through the area. Those of us who live and commute in the area have less than a week to adjust our patterns.

Last year, my colleague Representative JOHN DOOLITTLE and I introduced legislation to build a new bridge. This bill passed the House Resources Committee. Today, Representative DOOLITTLE and I reintroduce this language with even greater necessity. The Bureau of Reclamation unilaterally decided to close the road. But they provided no alternative. They have assured me that they support an effort to provide an alternative and restore a method for crossing the region in the form of this new bridge. Chairman POMBO has already indicated that he will give this bill its proper consideration.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in supporting the effort to provide a safe and secure way for all those traveling in the Sacramento region—home to an international port, airport and two interstate highways—to continue to cross through this beautiful and productive region by passing this legislation and building a bridge to replace the Folsom Dam Road.

#### RECOGNIZING MARY JO ELWELL

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mary Jo Elwell, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 3248, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement Attainable in girl scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1.) earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2.) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3.) earning the senior girl scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4.) designing a self development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl scouting, and (5.) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Mary Jo organized and ran a T-Ball program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mary Jo Elwell for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. VELMA LAWS-CLAY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF GREATER BATTLE CREEK

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Velma Laws-Clay as Scene Magazine's Woman of the Year.

I am pleased to pay tribute to a woman whose vision, intellect and commitment to community service has made her one of Battle Creek, Michigan's best known and most respected citizens. Whether working quietly behind the scenes or out front leading the charge, Velma's positive attitude and strength of conviction serve as an inspiration to all who know her.

Velma has been described as the consummate community volunteer; giving generously of her time, talent and resources. She serves on numerous boards and committees including NorthPointe Woods, the Art Center of Battle Creek, and the Battle Creek Community Foundation, where she became the first African-American to serve as Board Chairman. One of her more prominent roles was serving as chairman of the year-long sojourner Truth 200th Anniversary Celebration and the Sojourner Truth Monument dedication, events which paid tribute to the historic legacy of one of Battle Creek's most famous citizens.

As her affiliation with the Art Center might suggest, Velma has a passion for the arts. It is this passion, along with her knowledge and admiration of her cultural heritage that led her, along with her sister Vivian, to assemble a vast private collection of African American art and artifacts. The collection, known as the “Journey to Freedom”, encompasses over 300 pieces, ranging from prints and drawings to mixed media and sculptures. It provides individuals the opportunity to experience and learn about the history of African Americans through the eyes and works of the artists.

Velma has been the recipient of many well-deserved accolades. In 2001 she was named Alumnus of the Year by Kellogg Community College and received an Alumni Achievement Award from Western Michigan University. She was also recognized as a George Award winner for her outstanding service to the community, and most recently, was presented with the prestigious Athena Award by the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce.

Those who know and have worked with Velma state that her energy is contagious. She is a positive, motivating force that inspires the best in others. Through her actions and deeds, Velma serves not only as a strong community leader and visionary, but also as a tremendous role model for others in the community.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Velma Laws-Clay for her passionate devotion to promoting and improving the community in which she lives and for truly exemplifying service above self. I join with the citizens of Battle Creek in congratulating her on being named Scene Magazine's Woman of the Year.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## MARCH 4

2:30 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bruce E. Kasold, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and John W. Nicholson, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

SR-418

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold closed briefings on current military operations.

SR-222

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine a new way to aid the Millennium Challenge Account.

SD-419

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the war against terrorism, focusing protecting America.

SD-106

10 a.m.

## Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the federal government's initiatives regarding the school breakfast and lunch programs.

SH-216

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2004 Budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine oil, gas, hydrogen, and conservation, focusing on financial conditions of the electricity market.

SD-366

## Appropriations

## Military Construction Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for military construction.

SD-138

## Appropriations

## Military Construction Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for the fiscal year 2004 for military construction programs.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

## National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 164, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of Cesar Estrada Chavez and the farm labor movement, S. 328, to designate Catocin Mountain Park in the States of Maryland as the "Catocin Mountain National Recreation Area", S. 347, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a joint special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and S. 425, to revise the boundary of the Wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota.

SD-366

## MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

10 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Defense Subcommittee

To hold closed hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for operations intelligence.

S-407 Capitol

## Appropriations

## Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation Hearing.

SD-124

## Appropriations

## Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation energy and water development programs.

SD-124

2 p.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the asbestos litigation crisis.

SH-216

3 p.m.

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Tax Convention with the United Kingdom and Protocols amending Tax Conventions with Australia and Mexico.

SD-419

## MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2004 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

10 a.m.

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

## Employment, Safety, and Training Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Workforce Investment Act.

SD-430

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine oil, gas, hydrogen, and conservation, focusing on energy use in the transportation sector.

SD-366

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine legislative presentations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, the Blinded Veterans Association, and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

345 Cannon Building

## MARCH 11

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine oil, gas, hydrogen, and conservation, focusing on federal programs for energy efficiency and conservation.

SD-366

## MARCH 12

10 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

345 Cannon Building

## MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2004 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

10 a.m.

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2004 Budget for the Federal Transit Administration.

SD-538

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine legislative presentations of the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, the Fleet Reserve Association, and the Air Force Sergeants Association.

345 Cannon Building

## MARCH 20

10 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine legislative presentations of AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans' Affairs.

345 Cannon Building

## MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to be followed by closed hearings (in Room SH-219).

SH-216